



(U) Special Events, Special People -- FBI Washington Field Office

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A career SIGINT'er learns what it's like in the law enforcement world (U//FOUO)

(U//FOUO) Last July I left the familiarity of NSAW and accepted a job as a SID external representative (SID Rep). I am now at the FBI Washington Field Office (WFO), and still feeling culture shock as a result of my transition from the SIGINT world to the law enforcement world, not to mention the switch from driving to Ft. Meade to now taking the Washington Metro into D.C. every morning!

(U//FOUO) As a SID rep, I provide basic services to my FBI customers -- forwarding NSA product and assisting them with drafting Information Need requests for NSA response. However, I also get involved in much, much more, including requests for technical support, coordinating analysts exchanges, encouraging WFO use of Intelink, and in general educating FBI agents and analysts about what NSA can do for them to fill in the foreign intelligence pieces to their case puzzles. I wasn't warned that I'd need to learn a new language! "Bureau speak" includes such terms as CTOC, SAC, ASAC, pocket litter, EC, and pony (not the animal!)*. At the same time, I am introducing agents and analysts to "NSA-speak" as I help them understand what NSA can do for them even with our different cultures, missions and authorities.

(U//FOUO) Recently, I was part of the NSA team which supported two **National Special Security Events** (NSSEs)*: the **Presidential Inauguration** and the **Presidential State of the Union Address**. NSSEs require extensive preparation on the part of the entire Intelligence Community -- Concept of Operations (CONOPS), intelligence needs requirements, and threat assessments all need to be documented to give a clear understanding of the mission and responsibilities of all parties involved. With that foundation in place, all of us NSSE "players" could work our positions -- albeit for long hours at a heightened alert status -- assured that we knew how and with whom to coordinate vital information.

(U//FOUO) For me, the best part of the NSSE experience was observing my new law enforcement colleagues in action. The FBI WFO's 24-hour Command and Tactical Operations Center (CTOC) coordinated all investigative, intelligence, counterterrorism and crisis response activities. The Center had representatives from Secret Service, local law enforcement and fire departments ready for action, and had access to other WFO resources if necessary, including a SWAT Team, a Hostage Rescue Team, an Evidence Response Team, a Hazardous Material Recovery Team, and an aviation unit, to name a few.

(U//FOUO) As would be expected, most intelligence was coming from law enforcement agencies or the numerous FBI agents working the streets with reports of fires or protesters or suspicious vehicles. But NSA representatives throughout the Intelligence Community were poised and ready to provide any threat information that might come from its sources or to follow up on any leads provided by FBI. I know that FBI WFO was grateful for our support and was quite forthcoming with sharing their experiences from past Inaugurations and State of the Union Addresses.

(U//FOUO) I have worked in SID as an intelligence analyst, on the SID oversight staff, and as a manager in the collection arena, and along the way have had the pleasure of working with many dedicated and talented SIGINT professionals -- my personal SIGINT heroes. At the FBI, my eyes have been opened to a whole new world of talented and dedicated law enforcement professionals armed with guns, handcuffs, blackberries, and the highly valued intelligence from their Intelligence Community partner agencies. These men and women work long hours on counterterrorism, counterintelligence, espionage, and criminal cases, plus work the task forces

which respond 24/7 to threat tips to ensure the physical safety of those who live within their jurisdictions. I have gained another set of heroes -- law enforcement heroes.



(U) FBI's Washington Field Office Building

* (U) Notes:

For the record, the terms mean the following:

CTOC = Command and Tactical Operations Center

SAC = Special Agent in Charge

ASAC = Assistant Special Agent in Charge

EC = Electronic Communication

pony = sample format

(U//FOUO) For more information on NSSEs see:



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